

APPROVED 04-11-06
KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006
EXCHANGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM 6A

Members Present: Melody Cecilia James, Helen Nilon, Allan Panitch, Ron Sterling, Nancy Witherbee, Gwendolyn Williams

Members Absent: James Nobles (excused), Eleanor Owen (excused), Eugene Wan (excused)

Guests Present: Linda Brown (KCASAAB Liaison); Steve Herndon (VCCC), Dave Black, Rosea Adams (Ombuds Services)

Staff Present: Liz Gilbert, Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Board Chair Ron Sterling convened the meeting at 4:37 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Leeds of Positive Solutions will present an update from Medicare, "Part D" and other benefit news on March 21, 2006 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland.

Board Chair Ron Sterling announced he would try to wrap up the board meeting at 6:00pm because several board members have asked to be excused by that time.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jean Robertson will submit to Rhoda Naguit some minor changes which will not affect the content of the minutes. Helen Nilon made a motion which was seconded by Gwendolyn Williams to approve February 14, 2006 meeting minutes as corrected. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Copies of draft cover letter to go with the joint position paper on sales tax were distributed for board's review and approval.

Strike the word “this” on first line of third paragraph. It should read “It is time to reverse these damaging cuts to mental health funding...”

After some exchange of opinions and views, Helen Nilon moved and seconded by Nancy Dow-Witherbee to approve the letter as corrected.

Who gets this letter; who do we need to start talking to? These are some of the things both boards need to identify.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee**

Refer to attachment sent with the meeting notice.

- **Nominations Update – Helen Nilon**

No new nominations. Nancy Dow-Witherbee was confirmed by the Full Council April 13, 2006.

- **Quality Council – Helen Nilon**

The Council will analyze the Mental Health Report Card at their next meeting in view of the focus on recovery. They are looking into re-designing the report card to be more useful to people.

- **Recovery Initiatives Committee**

The Committee compared the State Mental Health Transformation Grant and the King County Recovery Plan and Recovery Ordinance. There was a discussion of the committee’s priorities among the transformation grant goals.

On the implementation of Recovery Plan, Perry Wien has been hired as project consultant. He will convene the various workgroups upon return from his vacation. The first retreat with providers will be held in April.

VI. STAFF REPORT

A. New Ombudsman Provider

Jean Robertson introduced the new Ombuds providers, David Black and Rosea Adams. Their approach to advocacy is to help clients find their own voice to

identify what they need and help them articulate it. Their office has received about 60 calls since they started on February 15, 2006.

B. Listening Sessions

The Division is attempting to hold several listening sessions for the state Mental Health Transformation Grant in the county. So far, only NAMI South King County has agreed to host a listening session. The session will be held on Thursday, March 23rd from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at NAMI-SKC Conference Room. The purpose of the listening session is to get direct feedback from stakeholders on what works and does not work currently, and what a transformed system should look like.

The Division may ask the providers to host a session. We have a very short timeline to put together a strategy.

King County RSN has drafted its response to four questions on the seven populations identified by the grant committees. RSNs are meeting with Ken Stark tomorrow and King County's responses will be presented.

C. Appropriation Bill

Big news. The outcome of the appropriation bill is better than we expected. The non-Medicaid allocation is unchanged but will be distributed according to population, which is advantageous to King County. As a result, the plan to eliminate spenddown is rescinded. The Division will release a letter informing providers about a change of plan on spenddown as soon as the Governor has signed the budget bill.

Appropriation bill will return 50% of liquidated damages prior to FY 06; all liquidated damages are eliminated for FY 06. This is state money only, not Medicaid, and must be used for services

King County will receive a small Medicaid rate increase.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

Ron Sterling: Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation

No report. He has yet to connect with Marilyn LaCelle, VCCC Executive Director.

Eleanor Owen: Highline-West Seattle Mental Health Center, Western State Hospital

Not present to report.

Helen Nilon: Seattle Mental Health, Evergreen Healthcare, and Partnership

Helen was unable to connect with Seattle Mental Health (SMH) at this time.

She met with Evergreen Healthcare (EH). This is the only agency in King County that does home psychiatric service. She will be meeting with EH committee quarterly. Helen is fascinated with the range of services the agency provides. She might invite them to do a presentation at the board meeting in the nearest future.

Partnership is always a very interesting meeting. Many of the issues discussed at the last meeting have been resolved, including spenddown. The Policies and Procedures will be re-written in 2007.

Gwendolyn Williams: Therapeutic Health Services

No report at this time. She asked that a liaison introduction letter be sent to the new staff at THS.

Eugene Wan: Community Psychiatric Clinic

Not present to report.

Allan Panitch: Seattle Children's Home

Has not heard from Dr. Palm to date.

Jim Nobles, District Mental Health Court

Not present to report. He has not heard from the court.

Melody Cecilia James: Children's Hospital and Medical Center

Nothing to report at this time.

Nancy Dow-Witherbee: Harborview Mental Health Services

Nancy gave the board Course 101 on HMC.

She gave a brief description of the agency program and the services provided. She stated that HMC seemingly has no problem with staff turnover. Most of the staff has been there for 20-30 years. HMC also does a lot of charity care; serving primary care population. They have an ACT Team, providing intensive case management. One other program that has called the attention of the board is their recycling team program, a good example of recovery model. This program might be featured in one of our board meetings in the future.

Nancy inquired what the board would like her to present next time about HMC. One suggestion is their recovery-oriented program. Also, what the agency is doing and what concerns they might have.

VIII. BOARD AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 5:55 p.m.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Ron Sterling
Board Chair